

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1. No new matter is added and no new issues are raised by this amendment.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-13 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on December 4, 2008.

II. Claim Objection

The Examiner objects to claim 1 because of a minor informality. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this objection in view of the self-explanatory claim amendment being made herein. Since the amendment is editorial in nature, its entry does not necessitate further consideration or search.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,261,043 to Wolber et al. (hereinafter “Wolber”) and WO 99/66651 to Elsbree (hereinafter “Elsbree”). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolber and Elsbree and further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0156969 to Tadokoro et al. (hereinafter “Tadokoro”).

Applicant respectfully traverses these grounds of rejections because the references fail to teach or suggest all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims.

Wolber relates to:

an iconic programming system to **specify data input constraints** . . . [and] to **automatically covert data to an acceptable type** and shape whenever such conversion is possible. . . . If the output data does not match the output constraints, block 806 transfers to block 808 which determines whether the output data can be converted to data that would be acceptable to the constraints. For example, if the input constraints call for a **real number**, **an integer** can be converted to a real number so the conversion is possible. . . . constraint dialog boxes [are used] to display the constraints for [an] input terminal . . . Box 306 **displays the data type . . . which . . . is a real number** (emphasis added).

See Abstract, col. 2, lines 38-40, col. 8, lines 16-23. In other words, Wolber teaches a programming system in which data types that are already assigned to certain data are converted into other data types. Specifically, Wolber teaches the data types real and integer. FIG. 3, for example, refers to data type “real” displayed in Box 306. In addition, the dialog box in FIG. 3 refers to “shape” and “data” as additional attributes.

However, Wolber does not disclose or suggest: “automatically generating the at least one display box on the operator interface of the computer user station so as to display the data utilizing display types that are respectively assigned to the data types,” as recited in independent claim 1, and “assigning the data types to respective display types,” as similarly recited in independent claim 10.

The Examiner contends that Wolber teaches the above-noted unique feature of claims 1 and 10. Specifically, the Examiner alleges that “the input data shown in Figure 3 utilizes the display type associated with the “Real Number” data type, i.e. displaying the data as a real

number '454'." *See* page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of the Wolber reference.

Wolber is silent about assigning a display type to a data type. The constraints that are specified in Wolber are "Name", "Type", "Shape", and "Mode" and the signal attributes are "Type", "Shape", and "Data". *See* FIG. 3 and col. 4, line 37 to col. 5, line 20. Wolber neither mentions any assignment of display types nor implicitly discloses such an assignment. Merely from the fact that the value "454" is displayed as a number in the dialog box 204, one skilled in the art would not have concluded that a certain display type is assigned to the data value 454. Since Wolber is mainly concerned with conversion of different data types, there is no reason why Wolber should have assigned different display types, such as, for example, bars, columns, lines or pies, to the data types of the data that is transferred from one terminal to another. There is also no reason why Wolber would have assigned display types to the data displayed in dialog boxes.

Elsbree does not remedy the deficient disclosure of Wolber. Specifically, Elsbree discloses "[p]re-fabricated software modules [that] can be used . . . as a pre-fabricated software image of a graphical representation." *See* col. 2, lines 42-45. More specifically, a method in Elsbree "comprises producing a display module which displays a graphical representation of a user interface of the machine on a display of the computer, and associating the graphical representation of the user interface with at least one control signal." *See* col. 2, lines 13-18.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that associating a graphical representation with a control signal does not disclose assigning a data type to a display type, as recited in claims 1

and 10. Even assuming, *arguendo*, that Elsbree's graphical representations correspond to such a display type, a control signal cannot be interpreted as a data type according to claims 1 and 10, because the control signal contains the data itself, "which flow[s] between the computer and the machine." *See* col. 4, lines 35-42. As a consequence, Wolber and Elsbree, separately or in combination, do not disclose or suggest assigning data types to respective display types, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Furthermore, Wolber does not teach "assigning the transmitted data of the process installation that is to be displayed to certain, stored data types," as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 10. Wolber merely "convert[s] data to an acceptable type and shape whenever such conversion is possible." *See* col. 2, lines 38-40. The Examiner takes the position that "converting data from one type to another assigns the data to the new type." *See* page 9 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

"Type conversion" is a well known term of the art. Applicant submits that a person skilled in the art would understand the term "type conversion" as "changing an entity of one data type into another. This is done to take advantage of certain features of type hierarchies. For instance, values from a more limited set, such as integers, can be stored in a more compact format and later converted to a different format enabling operations not previously possible, such as division with several decimal places' worth of accuracy." *See, e.g.*, extract from Wikipedia "Type conversion", page 1 of 2 (copy enclosed). On the other hand, conversion does not set or re-set the value stored in the storage location(s) denoted by a variable name.

As a consequence, a conversion of one data type to another data type does not assign the data itself to a variable, for example. Therefore, data type conversion does not disclose assigning a data type, as alleged by the Examiner. As a result, Wolber does not teach “assigning the transmitted data of the process installation that is to be displayed to certain, stored data types,” as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 10.

Finally, Wolber in view of Elsbree do not disclose or suggest: “wherein the assignments between the data types and the display types are pre-stored in the computer user station,” as recited in claim 12. Wolber and Elsbree do not teach assigning data types, such as, for example process data, status data, control data and regulating data, to display types. However, even assuming, *arguendo*, that they do, both references are silent about any pre-storing of assignments so that these pre-stored assignments can be used, for example, for automatically generating a display box after only assigning a data type to the data to be displayed. Consequently, Wolber and Elsbree do not teach the above-noted unique feature of claim 12.

As a result, the combined teachings of Wolber and Elsbree do not teach all of the elements as set forth and arranged in the claims. Tadokoro does not remedy the deficiencies of Wolber and Elsbree. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 2-9 and 11-13 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies from claims 1 and 10, respectively.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

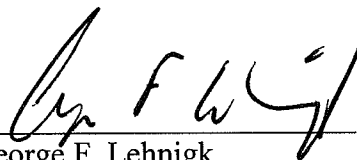
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/773,433

Attorney Docket No.: Q78997

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. F. Lehnigk", written over a horizontal line.

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